

**SALINA HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**--MEETING MINUTES--**  
**Meeting Room 105**  
**March 14, 2006**

**Commissioners Present:**

Sid Gray	Maribel Panuco
Brenda Faram	Allen Smith
Jan Mendell	Gina McDonald

**Commissioners Absent**

Sharon Kibbe  
Richard Frye  
Arthur Jordan

**Staff Present**

Kaye Crawford, Director  
Sandra Beverly, Equal Opportunity Specialist  
Dina Giron, Human Relations Specialist

**Guests**

Deb Demel, Assistant City Manager  
Nichole Roths, City Attorney's Office  
Peg Dokken-Opat, Executive Director of Adm. & Student Support Serv.  
George Troutfetter, Assistant Principal, South High School  
Gary White, Assistant Principal, South High School

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Chairwoman Gina McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Director Crawford was requested to take roll call.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairwoman McDonald called for approval of the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Allen Smith and seconded by Sid Gray. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Chairwoman McDonald called for approval of the minutes of the February Meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jan Mendell and seconded by Allen Smith. Motion was carried by commission vote.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Crawford reported on community events in which the Salina Human Relations staff had participated during the past month. Director Crawford reported on the success of the NAACP Banquet on February 11, 2006. With the assistance of Dina Giron, she went on to talk a little bit about plans for the Hispanic community to include a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month in September and the Cinco de Mayo celebration in May.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Affirmative Action Committee – Deb Demel**

Deb Demel, Assistant City Manager, presented the Affirmative Action Progress Report. East commissioners was given a copy. There were questions concerning why disabled employees weren't tracked in some manner in order to ascertain how many disabled are employed by the City. Nichole Roths explained the process utilized.

### **Report on Racially-Motivated Incidents - Allen Smith**

Commissioner Smith reported that some of the younger members of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church have concerns about the issues between Hispanic and Black students. Since the incident at Central High School several weeks ago, parents of school-age children as well as other members of the community who are church members, have been meeting to discuss these issues. The consensus is that the role of parents, and the community as a whole, play in improving the relationship between these two groups, Hispanics and Black, is the key to any change. Commissioner Allen reported he personally met with 13 kids from his church, and their impression was that the groups don't call themselves gangs. However, if groups of black kids go south past Republic, which includes the Mall and Sunset Park, they run into problems because groups of Hispanic kids have begun to claim that part of Salina as "their territory".

Mrs. Peg Dokken-Opat, stated there is a certain amount of tension among some groups in the schools and certain groups of youths have always congregated. She stated young people tend to hang out with people they are comfortable with or have something in common with, like sports activities, academic interests, and sometimes race and language. Gary White, Principal of Central High School, and George Troutfetter, Vice Principal, agreed.

Commissioner Smith reported a meeting will be held at USD 305 Main office, the meeting will be tomorrow, March 15, 2006 at 3:30 p.m.

### **Commission Position Statement**

Director Crawford reported that 3-4 years ago, the Human Relations Commission created a position statement while working on a response to hate groups. This statement could be re-written and published as a response to the recent activity if the Commission so desired. Director Crawford stated that the statement reads as follows: The Commission will not recognize nor support any activity or organization that espouses supremacist causes; attempts to promote illegal discrimination based on race, sex, familial status, disability, religion, age, color, national origin, or ancestry; or advocates the use of force or violence, or otherwise engages in an effort to deprive individuals of their civil rights.

### **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairwoman Gina McDonald gave a report about the Child Advocacy Clinic. This is a wonderful program that addresses special needs children who experience child abuse.

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Gina McDonald, Chairwoman

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Kaye J. Crawford, Secretary